THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Against the production potential of 2.02 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas from the established projects in Tripura, an allocation of 1.8 MMSCMD of natural gas has been made to various consumers in the region. Against this allocation, contracted quantity is 1.2 MMSCMD and the 'offtake' is around 0.90 MMSCMD only.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to Raise LPG Prices

2406. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to raise the prices of LPG for domestic users; if so, the decision taken thereon;

(b) what was the global LPG prices in January and in November this year and how the same compare with the domestic prices of LPG for household use and commercial use; and

(c) the extent of subsidy in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG (Domestic) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-01. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

(b) The global FOB price of propane and Butane which are the constituents of LPG quoted by Saudi Aramco for the period January'99 and November'99 are as under:

Product (Bulk)	Unit	Jan'99	Nov'99

Propane	$/MT	170	250
	Rs./MT	7,264	10,900
Butane	$/MT	180	240
	Rs./MT	7,691	10,464
Exchange rate considered		42.73	43.60

The domestic ex-storage point price (exclusive of duty etc.) of LPG for household use and commercial use (which is fixed by oil companies) during this period were as under:

Rs/MT

LPG	Jan'99	Nov'99
Packed Domestic	7958.29	8732.87
Bulk Industrial	12300	15700
Packed Non-Domestic	12600	17300

(c) The estimated subsidy during 1999-2000 on LPG (Domestic), based on current estimates is expected to be about Rs. 4770 crores or Rs. 124/cyclinder. In respect of commercial LPG, there is no element of subsidy.

LPG Agencies in Amritsar and Ferozpur Districts

2407. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new LPG Agencies in Punjab particularly in the districts of Amritsar and Ferozpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?